

# national park service

For Immediate Release  
January 3, 2000

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## **Return of Elephant Seals to Point Reyes National Seashore Prompts Temporary Beach Closures to Dogs**

Superintendent Don Neubacher announced today that elephant seals have returned to the beaches of Point Reyes National Seashore. Due to the return of the seals, a temporary restriction on dogs is in place until the end of April from the South Beach parking lot, south.

This is only a temporary closure for the protection of elephant seals during the breeding and pupping season. The first pup was born this year on Christmas day. As of this date, 10 pregnant females have arrived at the Seashore and approximately 200 animals are already on shore. The total population for Point Reyes is 1,500 animals. The best viewing area for elephant seals is the overlook near the Chimney Rock parking lot.

Dogs will still be allowed on leash at North Beach, Kehoe Beach, and the southern portion of Limantour Beach.

The seashore is working with graduate students from Moss Landing Marine Lab to study the demographics of the seal population and how the colony is expanding within the seashore. This is the final year of a two-year study funded by the National Park Foundation and Canon U.S.A., Inc.

Please visit our expanded website at [www.nps.gov/pore](http://www.nps.gov/pore) and visit the California Fedpage at [fedpage.doi.nps](http://fedpage.doi.nps) for information on all Federal natural resource agencies in California.

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**Point Reyes National Seashore**

**Point Reyes Station, California 94956**